

June 27, 1999

To: Commissioner Jane E. Henney 8373 '99 JUL 12 P2:46
Parklawn Bldg., Rm 14-71
5700 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

From: Marie E. Verbout
478 N. Silverbell Rd.
Tucson, AZ, 85745

As a member of the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), I urge you to save human lives by banning the use of medically useful antibiotics in animal feed. Adding antibiotics to feed in order to promote growth can make bacteria resistant to those antibiotics. And that can leave physicians with no way to treat life-threatening bacterial infections in humans.

That's why I support the petition filed by CSPI.

Also, I've already been the victim of my ignorance. When I had my babies--in 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959--the physician proudly announced to me that I would have no trouble drying up if I did not nurse my baby. He said, "We'll give you the same drug that we give your husband's cows to make them grow." Years later I found that I had been given stilbesterol, and I still hold my breath and hope that it has not harmed those babies.

Many of us now realize that every bite we eat, every pill we take, every injection we submit to causes a chain reaction in our body. We need to be protected from many additives, especially the use of antibiotics in animal feed. Thank you for doing your part to ban this harmful practice.

Marie E. Verbout

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